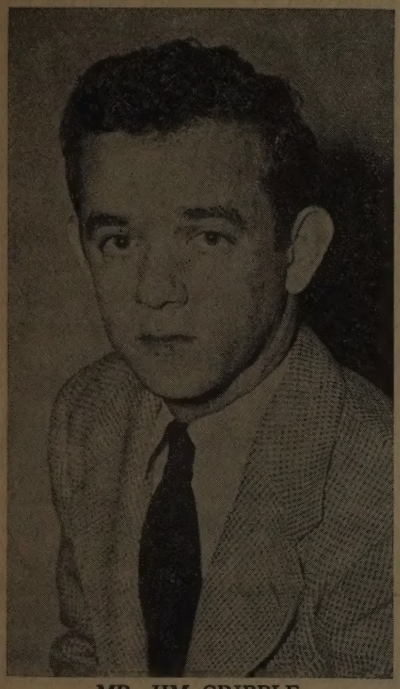
CHRISTIAN UNITY Newsletter

VOL. II DECEMBER, 1956 Nos. 3, 4



MR. JIM GRIBBLE

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Gribble, formerly on the World Council refugee staff in Greece, left their studies in Rome to help during the emergency in Austria. They are supported with Week of Compassion funds, administered through the Council on Christian Unity.

# EMERGENCY AID; HUNGARY, EGYPT

The crises in Hungary and Egypt have brought swift and effective aid from the churches through their ecumenical service programs.

World Council staff went immediately to Hungary with a nine-truck convoy of food and clothing on November 2. Funds were sent, including $5,000 from Week of Compassion, for emergency aid.

## Refugees Received

World Council and Austrian Church refugee offices were quickly expanded in association with the Inter-Government Committee on European migration to receive, interview, provide accommodations and prepare for resettlement of refugees. Refugees now number more than 150,000.

## McCallum in Egypt

Malcolm McCallum, in Egypt for refugee work since 1955, has been able to continue his work in Cairo, now ministering to 120,000 homeless war victims in addition to Palestinian refugees. McCallum is also working under ecumenical auspices and supported by the Week of Compassion through the Council on Christian Unity.

Russell Stevenson, of Church World Service, New York, reported after a week's survey that 4000 family units were destroyed in Port Said and 2000 persons killed. It will be 6 months before basic necessities can be provided for all victims, he said.

## Special Appeal for Funds, Food, Clothing

Church World Service and the World Council have appealed to member churches for an additional $550,000 for emergency aid for Hungarian churches and refugees. Our share is $55,000 plus $10,000 for Near East refugees.

January 20 has been set by the Disciples' Committee on Relief Appeals as a day for special offerings for these needs. Funds should be sent to Week of Compassion; foods and clothing to the nearest Church World Service warehouse.

Fuller information is going to all Christian Church ministers from Week of Compassion.

# DISCIPLES SUPPORT OF ECUMENICAL COUNCILS

## A Report to the Churches

Disciples support of the National and World Councils of Churches is based on support from local church budgets.

## World Council Budget

In 1955, 489 Disciples congregations gave $13,223.86 to the World Council Budget. This was $2,000 more than in 1954, but still nearly $6,000 short of our quota. Our Disciples share of the total World Council Budget of $440,500 is $19,050.

To meet our quota, the Council on Christian Unity suggests the following:

1. That at least 10 more churches give $200 each per year to National and World Council budgets;
2. That at least 50 more churches give $100 each per year;
3. That all churches presently giving which did not raise contributions by 25% since 1954 urgently strive to do so;
4. That every Disciple congregation not presently do so make some contribution to the Councils.

It is not too late for churches which have not contributed to the World Council in 1956 to do so.

Funds can be sent direct to the World Council of Churches, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, marked "Disciples' quota."

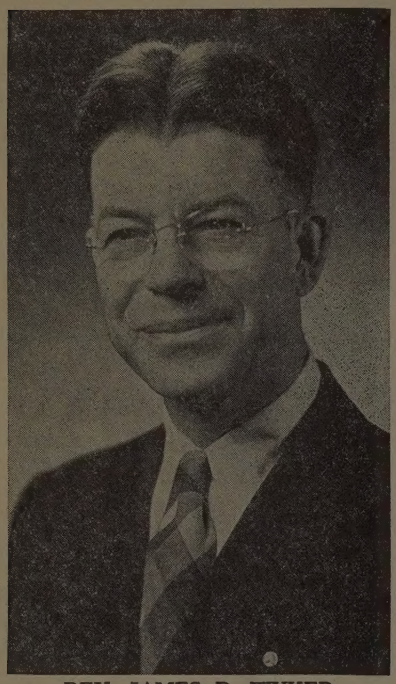
## National Council Budget

Disciples congregations gave $25,061.18 to the National Council's 1955 budget. In 1956 our suggested quota is $32,600, of a total budget running

(Continued on page 5.)

# COUNCIL APPOINTS FRATERNAL WORKERS

The Rev. Mr. James D. Wyker of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, will fly to East Pakistan in February where he will work with Christian communities uprooted from their farms by past political developments, or suffering from seasonal flood and famine.



REV. JAMES D. WYKER

## Wyker to East Pakistan

East Pakistan is presently suffering a very critical food shortage. American Christians have sent emergency relief supplies through Church World Service. Mr. Wyker's work will include relief distribution, agricultural development, and establishment of agricultural co-operatives. His work will be under the East Pakistan Christian Council, an ecumenical body of Christian churches in that country, and in association with the World Council of Churches.

Rev. Wyker is known among Disciples as a qualified economist, rural sociologist, and cooperative organizer with twenty-five years of experience as a rural minister, educator and ecumenical leader. He holds degrees from Transylvania College and College of the Bible in Lexington, Ky., and from Union Theological Seminary, N. Y.

Rev. Wyker has been appointed by the Department of Ecumenical Service of the Council on Christian Unity. Funds are provided through Week of Compassion.

## ECUMENICAL SCHOLARSHIPS INITIATED

A program of scholarships for ecumenical study has been initiated by the Council on Christian Unity and the Board of Higher Education in conjunction with Disciple Seminaries. The first scholarship has been awarded to Delos B. McKown of The College of the Bible, Lexington, Kentucky, for one term of study at the World Council of Churches' Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies near Geneva, Switzerland. Mr. McKown sailed from New York in September for the opening of the school on October 2.

**Mr. McKown with President Riley B. Montgomery of The College of the Bible. Funds were provided this year by College of the Bible.**

The Disciples Ecumenical Scholarship Program includes two annual scholarships to the Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies, one for seminary students provided by the Disciples' seminaries on a rotating basis, and one for Disciples' ministers and laymen at large to be financed by special gifts. In addition to these two scholarships to the Graduate School the Council on Christian Unity is also responsible for nominations of Disciple candidates to the ecumenical scholarship programs

(Continued on page 4.)

## Partins to London

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Partin and their four year old daughter, Ruth, sailed for London on December 8 to represent Disciples in service abroad. Rev. Partin will be associated with the International Missionary Council and the World Council of Churches in a special two year study of Christianity and non-Christian Religions.

The study, called "The Word of God and the Living Faiths of Men," involves a group of scholars from several countries, and will consider the current renaissance of non-Christian religions, their meaning for Christians and the relevance of the Christian gospel for non-Christian faiths.

Mr. Partin, formerly of Nicholasville, Kentucky, and associate minister at First Christian Church in Pomona, California, has specialized in a study of Islam at the University of Chicago. His studies have been facilitated by his working knowledge of French, German, Arabic and Latin. Mr. Partin is a graduate of Transylvania College and of Disciples Divinity House in Chicago. Mrs. Partin, formerly Marilyn Cook, has had four years of missionary training and several years experience in weekday religious education.

THE PARTINS

## STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS TO CONSIDER MERGER

The Executive Committee of the Disciples Students Fellowship (DSF), meeting in Stillwater, Okla., from December 27 to January 1, endorsed in principle the proposed merger of Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational-Christian, Evangelical and Reformed, and Disciple student fellowships, and prepared a recommendation for implementation to be considered by the larger DSF Ecclesia at its summer meeting.

The recommendation calls for a three-year period of study and integration, the first year being for adjustment at the level of local groups, the second at state or regional levels, and the third year at the national level. If approved by Ecclesia, the proposal would be submitted to appropriate Brotherhood agencies for their approval before implementation. A printed study guide including the Plan of Merger has been prepared by the Merger Committee of the five groups involved.

Further consideration of the merger plan will be given at meetings this summer, one at Cincinnati, May 5-6; and the other at Indianapolis Sept. 27-29.

## VISSER 't HOOFT COMMENDS DES MOINES RESOLUTIONS

Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, commented recently on "the extremely substantial resolution concerning Christian unity (No. 64) adopted at the Des Moines Assembly of the International Convention of Disciples of Christ."

"This resolution," said Dr. Visser 't Hooft, "gives remarkable conspectus of all the ecumenical interests and concerns of the Disciples of Christ and is in that respect an example for many other churches."

OBSERVE WEEK OF COMPASSION

February 17-24, 1957

# CONVERSATIONS WITH E & R, CONGREGATIONAL-CHRISTIAN CHURCHES TO CONTINUE

By action of the Des Moines Assembly of the International Convention, the Council on Christian Unity was authorized to explore the possibilities of our sharing . . . in the growing body of unity being formed by the merging of the Congregational-Christian and Evangelical and Reformed Churches.

The continuing interest of Disciples and this action by the Assembly were "received with great rejoicing" by the executive committees of the two uniting bodies. Congregational-Christian and Evangelical and Reformed leaders adopted a resolution inviting Disciples to send a fraternal delegate to the uniting convention to be held in Cleveland in June, and asserting that when the United Church has been consummated and stabilized, "we shall look forward with joy to the beginning of conversations with your representatives."

### Disciples Resolution

Text of the Disciples' Assembly resolution follows:

*WHEREAS, the Congregational-Christian and the Evangelical and Reformed Churches are moving toward the consummation in 1957 of their proposed union, and*

*WHEREAS, Disciples of Christ have followed with deep interest this significant coming together of four historic communions into a United Church of Christ, and*

*WHEREAS, the passion of the Disciples of Christ for the unity of the church would make them responsive to opportunities to participate in any enlargement of this union,*

*BE IT RESOLVED: that this Des Moines Assembly reaffirm the action of the International Convention taken at Buffalo in 1947, authorizing the Council on Christian Unity "to explore the possibilities of our sharing in this growing body of unity."*

*(The text of the resolution referred to and adopted by the Buffalo Convention in 1947 follows.)*

*"WHEREAS, the proposed union of the Evangelical and Reformed and the Congregational Christian Churches will likely be consummated within the next two or three years; and since this union, when it is realized will bring together four historic communions of diverse history, doctrinal emphases, and ecclesiastical polity, manifesting that there can be unity in diversity; and*

*"WHEREAS, some of the leaders of these uniting churches have openly expressed their hope that this body of unity would continue to grow, and have further stated that they look to the communion of the Disciples of Christ as the next fellowship of Christians with whom they should discuss the possibility of forming this united church; and*

*"WHEREAS, the historic passion of the Disciples of Christ has been the increasing union of the church;*

*"BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Convention of Disciples of Christ, meeting in Buffalo, New York, in the summer of 1947, authorize the Association for the Promotion of Christian Unity to explore the possibilities of our sharing in this growing body of unity."*

### Disciples Support

(Continued from page 1.)

above ten million dollars.

The International Convention Assembly at Des Moines (Resolution No. 64) resolved

1. That congregations presently contributing to the National Council be urged to increase their annual giving to this cause, and

2. That additional congregations be invited to participate in the effort to reach the total goal. . . .

Funds for the National Council should be sent direct to the National Council of Churches, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, marked "Disciples' quota."

# DISCIPLES PREPARE FOR OBERLIN

Sixteen Disciples have been named as delegates and consultants to the Faith and Order conference to be held at Oberlin, September 3-10, 1957. Theme of the conference will be "The Nature of the Unity We Seek."

## Official Delegates

Twelve delegates were approved by the International Convention to represent categories suggested by the planning committee: ministers, laymen, laywomen, church executives, theological professors. Delegates are:

Dean W. B. Blakemore.....Chicago
Dean A. T. DeGroot.....Fort Worth
Dean Stephen J. England.....Enid
Dr. Howard Elmo Short.....Lexington
Dean John E. McCaw.....Des Moines
Dr. Robert Tobias.....Indianapolis
Dr. Hampton Adams.....New York
Mr. Robert G. Nelson.....Indianapolis
Dr. Halbert E. Gulley.....Urbana
Mrs. George Earle Owen....Indianapolis
Dr. John Paul Pack.....Seattle
Dr. R. Frederick West.....Raleigh

## Consultants

The arrangements committee of the conference has also coopted 4 Disciples as consultants:

Pres. Perry Gresham....Bethany College
Prof. Ronald Osborn.....Indianapolis
Dr. Roy Ross.....New York
Mrs. James Wyker....Mt. Vernon, Ohio

Dr. Osborn is also a member of the arrangements committee and Dr. Gresham a member of the Faith and Order Commission.

## 150 Local Study Groups

Ministers and laymen in 150 different Disciple congregations have initiated local study groups on the theme of the conference. Some groups will be interdenominational, others include only Disciples. Study groups will use the preparatory conference manual "Ecumenical Conversations" as a guide. Copies are available from the World Council offices in New York.

Persons interested in setting up study groups should contact Prof. Howard Short, College of the Bible, Lexington, Ky., who is responsible for local studies.

## PROPOSALS ON WORLD COUNCIL BASIS UNDER CONSIDERATION

A special committee has been named by the World Council to consider proposals from member churches for changes in the "basis" statement.

Proposals have been received from churches in Norway, Holland and the U. S. A. A recent proposal from the General Council of the Congregational-Christian Churches calls for stronger emphasis on the Trinity. Proposals from other churches tend to move away from rigid Trinitarian interpretations.

The World Council committee is chaired by Dr. Ernest A. Payne of London, Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee. Among other documents, the committee will be considering proposals concerning the Basis included in the Disciples' "Response to Evanston."

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## British Endorse Guest Communion

"To approve what is called "Guest Communion" takes the British Churches, which have always held a close-communion position, a little further along the ecumenical road.

It means that the 110th Annual Conference held in the City of Manchester the first week in August voted for a more sympathetic application of the traditional practice rather than its abandonment. That the Union Committee's resolution went through without a hand raised against it would have been impossible a few years ago as would also be the widespread cooperation with other denominations all over the country. Conference was fully aware of the importance of the decision and the Union Committee was hapy in the spirit of the long discussion."—Will Mander, in August 29, Christian Evangelist.

## GRADUATE SCHOOL TO STUDY EVANSTON RESPONSE

Forty complimentary copies of the Disciples' "Response to Evanston" have been sent to the Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies near Geneva, Switzerland. Students in the School are having a special seminar dealing with the comments of member churches on the various decisions and statements of the Evanston Assembly of the World Council in 1954. Copies of the Disciples' "Response" were provided by the Christian Board of Publication.

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## Ecumenical Scholarships

(Continued from page 2.)

of the World Council of Churches and the Program of Advanced Religious Studies of Union Theological Seminary, New York.

Purpose of the ecumenical scholarships is to prepare young Disciples, lay and clergy, for ecumenical leadership both among Disciples and among other Christians and ecumenical bodies.

The Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies, now in its fifth session, is conducted by the World Council's Ecumenical Institute in association with the University of Geneva. The Ecumenical Institute has been of particular interest to Disciples who have provided support through the Week of Compassion for its numerous projects of church renewal and rapprochement between East and West. Many Disciples have participated in conferences held at Bossey, and four Disciples students are presently enrolled in the Graduate School. Professor Howard E. Short, College of the Bible, Lexington, and Professor Ronald E. Osborn, Butler School of Religion, Indianapolis, have both served on the faculty of the Graduate School. Dr. George Walker Buckner, Editor of World Call, serves on the Institute's Board of Directors.

# COUNCIL'S ANNUAL MEETING

## Round-up on Unity Developments

One hundred forty-six people were present for the breakfast and annual meeting f the Council on Christian Unity held in Des Moines, Iowa, on September 29. resident Hampton Adams presided over the session which featured brief ad- resses by George Walker Buckner, A. Dale Fiers and Ronald E. Osborn on rious current phases of Christian unity and cooperation. Dr. Bucker lifted up ghlights from the July-August meeting of the World Council's Central Commit- e in Hungary. Dr. Fiers spoke of experiences in Great Britain and of union ovements in various parts of the world. Dr. Osborn gave a comprehensive sur- ey of the purposes and plans of the Disciple Council's Study Department.

The Council authorized the president to send greetings to Robert Tobias, asso- iate executive secretary, who was unable to attend the Convention. Attention as called to the comprehensive resolutions on Christian unity which appeared the Convention program book. These later were adopted by the Convention ssembly.

## Directors Elected

Two classes of directors were elected, ne group for terms expiring in 1959 nd another for terms ending in 1960. V. E. Garrison and F. E. Davison were ected honorary life commissioners. he president spoke in appreciation of ne significant ministry of Edgar De- Witt Jones who who died early this ear.

Directors elected for the term end- ng in 1959 were:

Hampton Adams
George W. Buckner, Jr.
Irvin E. Lunger
W. B. Blakemore
W. K. Fox
C. O. Hawley
Miss Elsie Sweeney
Warren Grafton
Joseph B. Hunter
Warner Muir
Ross Griffeth

Directors elected for the term end- ng in 1960 were:

Gaines M. Cook
Oliver McCully
Myron C. Cole
Ira Langston
Harlie L. Smith
Coral A. Leach
Mrs. Russell Putnam
Robert Thomas
Granville Walker
W. A. Welsh
Curtis Jones

## Directors Elect Officers

At the meeting of the directors held at five o'clock the evening of September 29 the following officers were elected:

President .....Hampton Adams
1st Vice President.....Irvin E. Lunger
2nd Vice President.....W. J. Jarman
Secretary.....George Walker Buckner
Treasurer.....Harlie L. Smith
Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer .....Evelyn Honeywell

## STUDY BREAKFAST DISCUSSES GREENWICH PLAN

The Greenwich Plan of Union for a United Church was the theme of discussion at two study breakfasts during the International Convention in Des Moines, Iowa. This was one of the topics for which the Convention program committee arranged informal discussions. About 100 persons were present each morning, and many who wanted to attend were unable to secure tickets.

Dr. Edward Moreland of Cincinnati presided at the discussion. In dialogue form, Dr. Ronald E. Osborn and Dr. Hampton Adams discussed the Plan after which there were questions and comments from the group in general. Dr. Charles Clayton Morrison, an active member of the Conference on Church Union and of the Drafting Committee from its beginning, was resource leader and contributed largely to the discussion on the second day. Dr. Gaines M. Cook, also a member of the Conference on Church Union, answered questions on the operation of the Plan.

On the second morning Prof. William Baird of the College of the Bible presented some comments based on his paper, "A Theological Consideration of the Greenwich Plan," which will be published in the near future.

## DES MOINES STUDY ON NATURE OF UNITY

Fifty persons attended the special study session of the Council on Christian Unity given over to the theme, "The Nature of the Unity We Seek," which was held at the Des Moines Convention on Saturday afternoon, September 29. Dean Irvin E. Lunger, chairman of the Department of Ecumenical Studies, presided.

The study session was in preparation for the North American Faith and Order Conference to be held at Oberlin, Ohio, in September 1957.

Dean A. T. DeGroot of Texas Christian University presented a paper on "What Disciples Have Meant by 'The Unity We Seek.'"

Disciple representatives on the various local study committees set up by Dr. Paul S. Minear, Study Secretary for the Conference, then reported on their work as follows: Forrest Richeson from Minneapolis, John Paul Pack from Seattle, John Barclay from Boston, W. B. Blackemore from Chicago, Hampton Adams from New York, William R. Vivrett from Pittsburg, and R. Frederick West from Raleigh.

Dean Stephen J. England and Dean John McCaw then discussed emerging issues and members of the study session participated in the discussion. Howard Short concluded with a comment on plans for enlisting Disciples of Christ who will organize local study groups to consider the study document, "Ecumenical Conversations," by Dr. Paul S. Minear.

## EDGAR DeWITT JONES ECUMENICAL LECTURESHIP

Central Woodward Church in Detroit will inaugurate the first Edgar DeWitt Jones Lectureship at an Ecumenical Dinner on February 13, 1957. Dr. Roger T. Nooe, Minister Ecumenical of the Vine Street Christian Church of Nashville, Tenn., will deliver the first of what is expected to be an annual lecture. Dr. Nooe was a lifetime friend of Dr. Jones and brought the Memorial message at Dr. Jones' funeral services last year.

Dr. Jones had a great passion for the unity of the church. For many years he was president of the Council on Christian Unity (formerly, Association for the Promotion of Christian Unity), and was the only Disciple to serve as President of the Federal Council of Churches.

Disciples within convenient traveling distance are invited by Central Woodward to participate in the dinner and lectureship.

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FOR HUNGARIAN, EGYPTIAN REFUGEES
Special Disciples Appeal
January 20, 1957

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## Purpose and Task of Council

The purpose of the Council on Christian Unity has been and is:

"To watch for every indication of Christian unity; to initiate steps for Christian union, and to hasten the time of its fulfillment through intercessory prayer, friendly conferences, study of pertinent issues, publication and distribution of literature, prophetic witness to the will of Christ for his church, and the practice of love, fellowship and mutual service among Christians. The Council shall give particular attention to the development and nurture of an ecumenical spirit among Disciples of Christ."

## CANADIAN JOURNAL PUBLISHES SPECIAL UNITY ISSUE

The January issue of the UNITED CHURCH OBSERVER, journal of the United Church of Canada, is devoted to questions of unity.

Included are articles on what the United Church believes, what the United Church teaches, the history of the United Church, qualifications for the ministry, and statements on various aspects of the work of the United Church.

Copies are available from The United Church Publishing House, 299 Queen St. W., Toronto, Canada.

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## EUROPEANS COMMENT ON DR. TOBIAS' BOOK

Dr. Reinold von Thadden-Trieglaff, President of the German Evangelical Kirchentag, says of "Comunist-Christian Encounter in East Europe" by Robert Tobias: "There can be no doubt that it is really a document which will in the future be indispensable for all those who are occupied with Eastern issues."

Count Boris Bobrinskey, Dean of the Russian (in exile) Theological Faculty in Paris, refers to the book as a "thorough description," "a monumental study." Count Bobrinsky is co-author of a recent study of anti-religion propaganda in Russia between 1945 and 1954.

## CONGREGATIONS SUPPORT NEW WORLD COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS

One hundred and one Disciple congregations and a private foundation have contributed and pledged $11,530 toward the new headquarters building of the World Council in Geneva. Our total share of the $750,000 building project is $20,000.

Until now the World Council offices have been housed in several scattered buildings including a chalet, a stable, two wooden barracks, and a villa. New plans call for a large central building with adequate office as well as conference, library and chapel facilities.

The Disciples' special committee for the building project, of which Dr. Gaines Cook is chairman, hopes to be able to forward the entire Disciple quota by the end of June.

Local churches not solicited by the committee may participate by sending contributions to "The World Council Headquarters Committee," Box 5636, Irvington Station, Indianapolis 19, Indiana.

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*Christian Unity Newsletter: Issued quarterly to members and friends of the Council by the Council On Christian Unity (an association of Disciples of Christ for the Promotion of Christian unity, for ecumenical fellowship and service), 222 S. Downey Ave., Indianapolis 7, Indiana, U. S. A.*

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## Membership Application:

Being in sympathy with the purposes of the Council on Christian Unity and desiring to further its work by active participation in its program and witness, I hereby apply for membership in the Council and enclose $2.00 for membership dues for the year 1957-1958:

Signature: .....

Address: .....

.....

Date: .....

Mail to
COUNCIL ON CHRISTIAN UNITY
222 S. Downey Avenue, Indianapolis 7, Indiana